

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

APPROVAL TO RENEW 48 CLINICAL ASSESSMENT SERVICES AGREEMENTS (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Request approval to renew 48 agreements for the provision of clinical assessment services throughout Los Angeles County.

REQUEST

1. 1. Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute the renewal of 48 service agreements for the clinical assessment programs (Agreements) with licensed clinicians. The term of these Agreements will be effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012, at an estimated annual cost of \$1,640,000, or \$4,920,000 over the three-year term.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future Agreements, and future amendments to those Agreements, with other qualified and licensed clinicians to perform mental health assessments for Assembly Bill (AB) 3632 and Specialized Foster Care (D-Rate) programs, provided that: 1) the County's payments to each contractor under any amended Agreements do not exceed an increase of 20 percent of the initial Board-approved Agreement amount, 2) any increase will be used to meet program needs, 3) your Board has appropriated sufficient funds for all changes, 4) approval of County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office (CEO), or their designees, is obtained prior to any such Agreement or amendment, and 5) the Director of Mental Health provides written notification to your Board within 30 days after the execution of any Agreement or amendment.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Renewal of these Agreements will allow the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to continue contracting with the providers to perform State-mandated clinical assessments countywide for seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) children and adolescents who are considered for State-mandated AB 3632 services and/or specialized foster home care due to the severity of their emotional and behavioral problems. The term of the current Agreements expires on June 30, 2009. In addition, upon Board approval the Director of Mental Health will have delegated authority to execute new Agreements with other qualified, licensed clinicians, as deemed necessary, in order to ensure sufficient clinical manpower to perform State-mandated AB 3632 and Specialized Foster Care (D-Rate) mental health assessments of SED children and adolescents.

The estimated annual cost of these 48 agreements is \$1,640,000, or \$4,920,000 over the three year term, funded by Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Gross Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Medi-Cal, Intrafund Transfer with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Sales Tax Realignment, and MHSA funds, which are included in the Department's 2009-10 Proposed Budget. Funding for future fiscal years will be requested through DMH's annual budget process. There is no increase in net County cost.

BACKGROUND

DMH is responsible for ensuring the timely completion of State-mandated clinical assessments of special education pupils, pursuant to Chapter 26.5 CA Government Code AB 3632, and also for clinical assessments referred by DCFS for the D-Rate Program. These assessments are conducted countywide by qualified, privately licensed mental health clinicians.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

All of the 48 licensed, clinicians have existing agreements with DMH which will expire on June 30, 2009, and are being renewed because of the continuing need for their specialized services. DMH continuously accepts applications from qualified, licensed clinicians. Based on need, DMH selects individuals for their specialized clinical assessment skills and experience in evaluating children and adolescents for the AB 3632 and Specialized Foster Care (D-Rate) programs.

DMH CONTACT:

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Approved By:

DMH Contracts – Alice Wong
Chief Executive Officer – James Sokalski
County Counsel – Edward Yen